



# ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

NEW YORK

*Affiliate of the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators  
Local 1 - AFSA, AFL-CIO*

AAP NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Sandy DiTrapani**  
President

I remember reading something that went, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." I also remember someone telling me you'll know when you are ready to retire. Well truth of the matter is I struggled with this decision for a very long time. For those of you who are not already aware, I decided two days before the end of the school year to retire. At the same time I asked, "How much time do I have, if I want to change my mind?"

It was very hard to walk away from something I loved. It has been my pleasure as your president working with all of you and I hope that I have helped APs in a positive way throughout this city.

I must admit that I would not have retired until I was sure this organization was in good hands and to that end, I have asked AAP Executive Vice President Steffani Fanizzi to serve the remainder of my term as President of the Association. I know Steffani; she is a bright, hard-working, and dedicated Assistant Principal who knows what she wants for this organization and has strong commitment to the association and its members.

When I became president of AAP, the organization had a good mechanism in place but I felt that in many cases, Assistant Principals were treated in an unprofessional manner. I tend to give my phone number out to everyone; in fact it is on my business cards. So after a short period of time, I started receiving phone calls from APs all over the city, each with their own issues; while I tried to explain over and over again that the AAP was not the union and that they should contact their CSA representative. They still wanted to talk to me and tell me what their issues were, but most did not want me to use their names or school from fear of reprisal. There was a tremendous amount of distrust on all parts. Working with CSA, I was able to get many of these issues addressed without betraying anyone's confidentiality. I would like to think that the Association was instrumental in making the jobs and working conditions of many Assistant Principals across the city better. What I felt, was that there was a lack of recognition of APs as professionals. I have always said perception is reality. We tried to create a new reality, one that said we are professionals and expect to be treated as such. I can honestly say that eventually we received greater recognition from central and the chancellor; that CSA is the school supervisors' union and not the principals' union.

We added professional development as part of our meetings and produced a terrific conference each year where we provided workshops presented by experts who could explain the changes. Since we were held accountable for the changes in the system and in many cases were not offered training, it was crucial that the association offered workshops at the AAP conference. We also kept our members informed and up to date on issues affecting them.

*(continued on page 2)*

## AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

The Association of Assistant Principals (AAP) annual Award and Scholarship Dinner was held at the Rosie O'Grady's Restaurant on June 18, 2017. We recognized 15 students from elementary, intermediate and junior high schools who have demonstrated service and leadership in their community and/or schools. The children attended the event with their nominating Assistant Principal and their families. The recipients received the Martin Safran Citizenship Award, a check for \$100 and other prizes. In addition, elected officials provided certificates to the awardees selected from their districts.

The Stewart Weiner Scholarship was also presented during the dinner. This award is given to two exemplary students who are planning to attend college in the fall. Each awardee is the child of an active member of the association.

### Martin Safran Citizenship Award

#### Recipient

Rowan Almontaser  
Despina Anastasiou  
Nicholas Baillargeon  
Deric Borrero  
Zameen Cater  
Zoe Chin  
Hailey Conde  
Karina Cordovab  
Carolina Cruz  
Michael Dungan  
Emily Guercia  
Ashley Hernandez  
Phoenix Hou  
Ioanna Ninos  
Gordon Tsang

#### Nominating Assistant Principal

Christina Devito, I.S. 14K  
Alba Carlucci, P.S. 122Q  
Nicole Sini, P.S. 1R  
Eileen Barone, I.S. 24R  
Laura Kelly, P.S. 102K  
Naomi Levine, P.S. 97K  
Alejandro Fernandez, I.S. 347K  
Andrew Cataneo, I.S. 51R  
Deborah Casey, P.S. 196K  
Paula Lombardo, P.S. 36R  
Andrew Cataneo, I.S. 51R  
Alejandro Fernandez, I.S. 347K  
Dr. D. Vandorn, M.S. 216Q  
Gail Irizarry, I.S. 383K  
Beena Thomas, P.S. 130M

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *(continued from page 1)*

Now it is time to step aside. I will not be going too far. The association has become part of my family, each and every one of you. I only hope you give Steffani the support she will need to continue to move this organization forward. More than anything she needs your participation and involvement. So come out and stand with her and help make the Association of Assistant Principals stronger than ever.

### Stewart Weiner Scholarship

#### Recipient

Joshua Levine  
Jordan Simione

#### Parent

Naomi Levine, AP, PS 97K  
Joseph Simione, AP, PS 238K



Student recipients with Sandi DiTrapani, AAP President and Steffani Fanizzi, AAP Executive Vice President.



Ernest Logan, former CSA President with the Assistant Principals of the recipients.



Stewart Weiner Scholarship: John Oricchio, AAP Executive Director of Finance & Events with Naomi Levine, P.S. 97K, A.P. The scholarship winners, Joshua Levine and Jordan Simione were unable to attend to receive their award.

## OUR AAP OFFICERS 2017-18

**President:**.....Steffani Fanizzi  
**Vice-Presidents:**.....Debra Handler  
Joan Mitchell  
Eva Proctor  
Joseph Simone  
Gaynell Taylor  
**Recording Secretary:** .....Katerina Sidbury  
**Corresponding Secretary:** .....Gail Irizarry  
**Treasurer:**.....Alejandro Fernandez

## THE AAP 75TH EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

As one of the oldest professional organizations within the Department of Education community, the Association Assistant Principals will be celebrating its 75th educational conference on Saturday, October 14, 2017. The event will be held at the LaGuardia Marriott Hotel. Nationally known children's author Patricia Polacco (author of *Thank You Mr. Falker*, *Thunder Cake*, *Bully*, and many more) will be the keynote speaker. Following her remarks will be a book signing. Come early to the conference, the first 75 guests will receive one of Ms. Polacco's books free.

AAP will be honoring President Sandy Di Trapani upon his retirement. Also, Assistant Principals will be celebrating their fifth, tenth, fifteenth or twenty-fifth anniversary as APs.

## LABOR DAY PARADE

AAP along with CSA marched in the Labor Day Parade on Saturday, September 9, 2017. Before marching, CSA members were invited to attend Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. President's Club members were invited to a post-parade reception. Hope to see you next year at the Annual Labor Day Parade!

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Wednesday, October 4th

Ernest Logan's Retirement Party at Russo's on the Bay

### Monday, October 9th

2nd Annual Golf Scholarship Fundraiser

### Saturday, October 14th

AAP 75th Educational Conference –  
La Guardia Marriott Hotel

### Saturday, November 4th

CSA's 50th Educational Leadership Conference –  
Hilton Hotel, NYC

Please check the AAP website for future dates:  
[www.aapnyc.com](http://www.aapnyc.com)

## CSA's 50TH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Golden Jubilee CSA Conference will be held on November 4, 2017 at the NY Hilton Midtown. Wes Moore, CEO of Robin Hood Foundation will be the keynote speaker. Plan to attend this wonderful day of networking, workshops, speakers, and a gala luncheon where CSA President Mark Cannizzaro will report to the membership. Certificates of Attendance will be provided. To register check CSA's website: [csa-nyc.org](http://csa-nyc.org).

## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

AAP held its May Executive Board Meeting at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Manhattan. APs learned about the programs and partnerships NMAI can offer the schools. The National Museum of the American Indian is part of the Smithsonian Institution. NMAI explores the diversity of the Native people of the Americas. Current holdings include all major cultural areas of the Western Hemisphere, representing virtually all tribes in the United States, most of those in Canada, and a significant number of cultures from Middle and South America and the Caribbean.

For information: [nmai-education@si.edu](mailto:nmai-education@si.edu);

Group Reservations: 202-633-6644 or  
[nmai-groupreservations@si.edu](mailto:nmai-groupreservations@si.edu)

## CRUISE AROUND MANHATTAN

School leaders and friends from AAP, New York City Elementary School Principals' Association (NYCESPA), Middle School Principals' Association (MSPA), High School Principal Association (HSPA), Supervisor of and CSA staff joined together on Friday, June 23rd to celebrate the end of the school year with a dinner cruise around Manhattan.

The cruise began at the World's Fair Marina in Flushing at 6:30 pm and returned at 11:30 pm. As we sailed down the East River to the Statue of Liberty and back, we enjoyed a full buffet dinner and open bar. Let's not forget the DJ's music! The cruise was co-sponsored by AAP and NYCESPA. Plan to join us next year!

Check the AAP Website  
for all applications forms

Martin Safran Awards and  
Stewart Weiner College Scholarship

[www.aapnyc.com](http://www.aapnyc.com)

and for professional development offerings

[www.csa-nyc.org](http://www.csa-nyc.org)



## DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY

